

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01307 030252Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /120 W

----- 086698

R 030220Z AUG 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2184

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CH UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPORT ON CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENARY  
SESSION

REF: A. PEKING 1300 B. MOSCOW 11723

1. SOVIET POLCOUNS FEDOTOV TOLD US AUGUST 1 THAT SOMETHING  
APPROACHING CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENARY SESSION TOOK  
PLACE IN PEKING ON MAY 8 AT WHICH QUESTION OF CHOU EN-LAI'S  
HEALTH WAS DISCUSSED. (FEDOTOV DESCRIBED THIS MEETING  
AS BEING ON A SMALLER SCALE THAN A FULL PLENUM, BUT NOT AS  
SMALL AS A MEETING OF THE POLITBURO.) MAO TSE-TUNG  
REPORTEDLY ATTENDED AND PERSONALLY ADDRESSED THE MEETING  
ON SUBJECT OF CHOU'S HEALTH, SAYING THAT CHOU EN-LAI'S  
PHYSICAL CONDITION REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE RESTRICTION OF HIS  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

2. ACCORDING TO FEDOTOV, MAO'S STATEMENT COULD BE TAKEN  
IN TWO WAYS:

A) PRESUPPOSING CHOU WAS NOT ALL THAT SICK, MAO'S REAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01307 030252Z

PURPOSE WAS SIMPLY TO LIMIT CHOU EN-LAI'S POLITICAL

ROLE USING CHOU'S PHYSICAL CONDITION AS AN EXCUSE; OR

B) CHOU REALLY WAS SICK AND MAO WAS UNDERSCORING THE NEED FOR CHOU TO REST. FEDOTOV INDICATED THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN FAVORING THE FORMER OF THE TWO THEORIES, BUT HE ADMITTED THAT THIS INTERPRETATION CONFLICTED WITH EVIDENCE THAT CHOU REALLY HAD BEEN ILL AND ALSO WITH THE WARM APPLAUSE CHOU EN-LAI RECEIVED WHEN HE REAPPEARED IN PUBLIC JULY 31 AT THE ARMY DAY RECEPTION (REFTEL A - RPTD MOSCOW).

3. WE HAVE NOTICED FROM MOSCOW'S REPORTING THAT PERSONAGES SUCH AS KAPITSA HAVE TAKEN LINE THAT PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA CHARACTERIZED BY STRUGGLE BETWEEN "LEFTIST" ELEMENTS HEADED BY CHIANG CH'ING AND MORE MODERATE FORCES HEADED BY CHOU EN-LAI, WITH MAO TSE-TUNG ALIGNING HIMSELF WITH THE LEFTISTS AGAINST CHOU AND CHOU EVEN ON THE WAY OUT (REFTEL B). THESIS (A) PUT FORWARD BY FEDOTOV WOULD SQUARE WITH THIS ANALYSIS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING WHETHER MEETING ALONG LINES DESCRIBED BY FEDOTOV ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE, AND IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS POSSESS RELIABLE INSIDE INFORMATION. HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEDICAL CARE, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PEKING01307  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740212-0016  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740876/aaaacncr.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. PEKING 1300 B. MOSCOW 11723  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET REPORT ON CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENARY SESSION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, CH, UR, (CHOU EN-LAI), (MAO TSE-TUNG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005